



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Virgil I Grissom Middle School
FROM: Timothy Schultz, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education
RE: Appeal by Virgil I Grissom Middle School of its 2015-16 Letter Grade
DATE: April 5, 2017

Finding: Virgil I Grissom Middle School’s appeal of its 2015-16 category placement of a “C” grade should be denied.

I. Facts

Virgil I Grissom Middle School (“Grissom”), part of the Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, received a letter grade of “C” for the 2015-16 school year. Grissom appealed the “C” grade due to concerns regarding credit for growth of limited English-proficient students and special education students.

II. Argument and Analysis

Grissom contends that the accountability model does not fairly measure growth for the English Language Learners (“ELL students”) and special education students’ who exhibit growth but do not pass ISTEP. While the Indiana State Board of Education (“Board”) does not doubt that Grissom is working hard with these students and is seeing growth, the Board cannot count ELL or special education students as “passing” ISTEP when they did not, no matter their circumstances. Additionally, allowing Grissom to change the performance for these students would give them an unwarranted advantage, compared to similarly situated schools, in regards to the calculation of Grissom’s overall grade placement.

For the forgoing reasons, Grissom’s “C” grade should not be altered, and the appeal should be denied.